

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A method for inserting a medical instrument into a urethra, comprising the steps of:

providing a urethral access device having an elongate tube with a lumen

extending along an axis between a proximal end and a distal end, and a handle

5 at the proximal end of the tube;

configuring the handle with a distally-facing, concave surface and proximally-facing surface, the distally-facing surface being sized and configured to receive two adjacent fingers of a user's hand;

inserting the distal end of the tube into the urethra to an operating position

10 in order to provide access for the medical instrument;

moving the medical instrument distally into the proximal end of the lumen of the tube and through the lumen of the tube into the urethra;

during the moving step creating a distal force on the urethral access device; and

15 applying a proximal force on the distally-facing surface of the handle to oppose the distal force and maintain the access device in the operative position.

11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 10 wherein the configuring step further comprises the step of:
 - forming the proximally-facing surface with a convex configuration.
13. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 10 further comprising the step of:
 - moving the handle distally axially along the tube beyond a predetermined position;
- 5 removing a portion of the tube extending generally proximally of the predetermined position; and
 - moving the handle axially proximally to the predetermined position along the tube.
14. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
 - facilitating a generally fixed relationship between the handle and the tube at the predetermined position.
- 15 – 22. (Canceled)
23. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 14 wherein the facilitating step comprises the 2 steps of:
 - mounting a sleeve with an elastomeric washer on the tube; and
 - screwing the handle onto the sleeve.

24 - 27 (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A method for assembling a medical access device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate tube having a working channel;

5 providing an elastomeric washer with a lumen sized to receive the elongate tube;

providing a sleeve having external threads and configured to mount the elongate tube;

disposing the elastomeric washer within the sleeve;

10 mounting the sleeve and the elastomeric washer onto the elongate tube;

forming a handle assembly with a nut having internal threads configured to mate with the external threads of the sleeve, the nut being configured to compress the elastomeric washer; and

15 coupling the handle assembly to the sleeve such that the nut compresses the elastomeric washer, coupling the handle assembly to the sleeve including screwing the handle assembly onto the sleeve.

29. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 28, wherein the step of forming a handle assembly with a nut comprises the step of forming the nut as a cylinder.

30. (Canceled)

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31. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 28, wherein the step of coupling the handle assembly to the sleeve such that the nut compresses the washer comprises the step of decreasing a diameter of the lumen.